

103<sup>D</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# **S. J. RES. 133**

To ensure that Members of Congress participate on an equal basis with their constituents in the health care system that results from health care reform legislation.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 15 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 7), 1993

Mr. WELLSTONE introduced the following joint resolution; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources

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## **JOINT RESOLUTION**

To ensure that Members of Congress participate on an equal basis with their constituents in the health care system that results from health care reform legislation.

Whereas Congress is expected to consider legislation in the near future that would offer health insurance plans at different prices;

Whereas the reform is likely to include a standard health care plan designed to be affordable to average Americans, but also will make more expensive plans available to those who can afford them;

Whereas differences in the prices of the plans could result in differences in quality, and could also affect an individual's ability to choose between managed care and fee for service plans;

Whereas the best guarantee of equity in a social program is to include people of all income levels and social classes in the same system with the same benefits, as is the case in the health care systems of most other industrialized countries;

Whereas Members of Congress should not create a system designed to impel millions of their constituents to join health care plans they themselves are unwilling to join;

Whereas Members of Congress who participate in the standard, average-priced health care plan in their congressional district can provide an immediate warning of quality problems, deficiencies, and underservice, and can thus ensure that everyone, regardless of income, place of residence, health status, or employment will have access to quality health care; and

Whereas public disclosure of the health care plans in which Members of Congress are enrolled would serve to keep providers and constituents aware of the stake that Members have in assuring the quality and efficiency of such health care plans: Now, therefore, be it

- 1       *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
- 2       *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
- 3       That all Members of Congress should enroll in a standard
- 4       health care plan available at their home of record that
- 5       charges no more than the average premium for the area,
- 6       and that all Members of Congress should disclose publicly
- 7       on an annual basis the health care plans in which they
- 8       have enrolled.

